

# RM30M TO EQUIP POLICE WITH BODY CAMS

**This will boost their morale, protect them from slander, says Muhyiddin**

HANA NAZ HARUN  
KUALA LUMPUR  
news@nst.com.my

**T**HE government has allocated RM30 million to equip policemen with body-mounted cameras,

said Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

He said the use of such cameras would boost police morale and protect them from slander by criminals and unscrupulous people.

“With the use of high-tech and sophisticated body-worn cameras, I believe the police’s morale and confidence while performing their duties will be enhanced,” he said during the 214th Police Day celebration at the Police Training Centre (Pulapol) yesterday.

The use of body-mounted cameras or “body cams” for Malaysian police was mooted by the Pakatan Harapan administration in 2019.

The PH government had said that it aimed to equip law enforcers on the frontlines, such as

police and Immigration officers, with body cams to curb corruption and reinforce professionalism.

The use of body cams for law enforcement personnel has been adopted by countries like the United States, Australia, the United Kingdom and Singapore.

At the event, Muhyiddin announced an extension of the RM500 financial assistance to all serving or retired recipients of the Pingat Jasa Pahlawan Negara.

He said 80,000 recipients of the medal of honour, including 40,000 of those who had retired, would benefit from the aid.

He said although the country was facing challenging economic times, the government remained concerned and committed to protecting the welfare of police.

“The government will continue to pay attention to the needs of the police force to boost its capabilities.

“Realising the magnitude of the agenda to fight and eradicate crime, I would like to call on all parties to work hand-in-hand with the police and stop any effort or action of those who threaten the country’s sovereignty and the peace of the people.”

Muhyiddin also urged police officers to master the country’s laws, apart from equipping themselves with sophisticated assets,

gadgets and arms.

He said police should gain more global and up-to-date exposure and partnerships through increased participation in training, courses or conferences organised both locally and abroad.

“Collaborations and strategic cooperation on an international level by our country’s police force can put them on a par with security forces in other countries, such as Scotland Yard, the Royal Military Police United Kingdom, and Hong Kong police force.

“To build a strong law enforcement team, the application of values of discipline and integrity must be emphasised.”

He said police must have a sense of belonging to their team and a high sense of responsibility.

“With pure intentions and teamwork, I am confident and believe in the police’s capabilities in protecting the country’s peace and sovereignty, and defending their good name among Malaysians.”

He said the police had successfully adapted through a series of transformations and improvements to ensure the institution remained relevant over time.

He also said the government realised that the police force faced challenges with the advancement of technology and a

borderless world.

“Even so, armed with a high level of self-identity, professionalism and competence, I am confident the force will be able to stop and eradicate increasingly complex criminal activities.

“In this context, I also believe there is still room for more empowerment for police to increase their level of professionalism and readiness in shouldering entrusted responsibilities.”

On border security, Muhyiddin said placing the Border Control Agency (Aksem) under the police’s purview would curb the intrusion of illegal foreigners into the country more effectively, especially during the Covid-19 pan-

demic.

He congratulated the police force, as well as other government agencies and departments, for successfully safeguarding the country’s borders through Op Pasir and Op Benteng.

“Although almost the entire police force has been mobilised for Op Covid-19, they continue to balance their priorities in fighting crime and maintaining the country’s safety and peace.

“They are true frontliners.”

Present were Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Abdul Hamid Bador, Home Minister Datuk Seri Hamzah Zainuddin and former inspector-general of police Tun Hanif Omar.